

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as set forth below:

1. (Currently Amended) In a computer system, a method for saving a running software application for execution at a later time, the application being associated with a process having a state and an environment, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

associating a unique identifier with the running software application to be saved; virtualizing the process environment associated with said running software application;

recording process events that change the state of the process, wherein the recording comprises intercepting at least some of the process events generated by the process prior to the process events reaching an operating system on which the application is running;

saving process state in the form of a snapshot image, wherein the process state includes state updated by the process events that were intercepted; and

saving shared resource state relevant to said snapshot image with said snapshot image.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising including the step of saving modified memory pages relevant to said snapshot image with said snapshot image.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising including the step of saving states associated multiple threads relevant to said snapshot image.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, which, when executed by a computer, saves a running software application for execution at a later time, the application being associated with a process having a state and an environment, by ~~performing the steps of~~:

associating a unique identifier with the running software application to be saved; virtualizing the process environment associated with said running software application; recording process events that change the state of the process, wherein the recording comprises intercepting at least some of the process events generated by the process prior to the process events reaching an operating system on which the application is running; saving process state in the form of a snapshot image, wherein the process state includes state updated by the process events that were intercepted; and saving shared resource state relevant to said snapshot image with said snapshot image.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
recording process events that change one or more states of one or more processes associated with a running software application, wherein the recording comprises intercepting at least some of the process events generated by the one or more processes prior to the process events reaching an operating system on which the running software application is running; saving one or more snapshot images, the one or more snapshot images comprising said one or more process states of said one or more processes, the one or more process states including state updated by the process events that were intercepted; and saving shared resource state used by the application with said snapshot images.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising associating a unique identifier with said running software application.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising virtualizing one or more process environments associated with said one or more processes.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein saving said one or more snapshot images comprises saving the difference between the current process state and a prior snapshot.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising suspending said one or more processes.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 further comprising restoring said software application, wherein said restoring comprises:

restoring said shared resource state; and
restoring each of the one or more processes associated with said one or more snapshot images.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 wherein said saving said one or more process states and said saving shared resource state occurs on a first computer system, and wherein said restoring said software application occurs on a second computer system.

14. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

an application framework operable to record process events that change one or more states of one or more processes associated with a running software application, wherein the application framework is operable to intercept at least some of the process events generated by the one or more processes prior to the process events reaching an operating system on which the running software application is running, and

a snapshot driver operable to:

save one or more snapshot images including said one or more process states of said one or more processes, the one or more process states including state updated by the process events that were intercepted by the application framework; and

save shared resource state used by the application with said snapshot images.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein said snapshot driver is further operable to associate a unique identifier with said running software application.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein said snapshot driver is further operable to virtualize one or more process environments associated with said one or more processes.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein said snapshot driver is further operable to save the difference between the current process state and a prior snapshot.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein said snapshot driver is further operable to suspend said one or more processes.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14 further comprising a restore driver operable to restore said software application, wherein said restoring comprises:

restoring said shared resource state; and
restoring each of the one or more processes associated with said one or more snapshot images.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19 wherein said snapshot driver operates on a first computer system, and wherein said restore driver operates on a second computer system.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium including program instructions executable to implement a method comprising:
recording process events that change one or more states of one or more processes associated with a running software application, wherein the recording

comprises intercepting at least some of the process events generated by the one or more processes prior to the process events reaching an operating system on which the running software application is running;
saving one or more snapshot images, the one or more snapshot images comprising said one or more process states of said one or more processes, the one or more process states including state updated by the process events that were intercepted; and
saving shared resource state used by the application with said snapshot images.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises associating a unique identifier with said running software application.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises virtualizing one or more process environments associated with said one or more processes.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein saving said snapshot images comprises saving the difference between the current process state and a prior snapshot.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises suspending said one or more processes.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21 wherein the method further comprises restoring said software application, wherein said restoring comprises:

restoring said shared resource state; and
restoring each of the one or more processes associated with said one or more snapshot images.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 21 wherein said saving said one or more process states and said saving shared resource state occurs on a first computer system, and wherein said restoring said software application occurs on a second computer system.

28-29. (Cancelled)